

OKINAWA MARINE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

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12th Marines roll out with triple sevens

Lance Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FUJI — Marines and sailors from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, began their first day of firing at the East Fuji artillery range Sunday during Artillery Relocation Training Program Exercise 2010-2 here.

“The purpose of this training is to maintain the operational readiness of the battalion in support of the U.S. - Japan security alliance,” said Lt. Col. Ricardo Miagany, the battalion commander of 3rd Bn., 12th Marines.

More than 390 Marines and sailors from 3rd Bn., 12th Marines are participating in the overall exercise including the Headquarters Battery, and temporarily assigned firing batteries, Battery B and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Battery M, 3rd Bn., 11th Marines.

SEE **FUJI** PG 5

Marines with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, fire a 155mm high explosive round from the M777 Howitzer during 12th Marines' first day of firing artillery at the East Fuji artillery range during Artillery Relocation Training Program Exercise 2010-2 on Camp Fuji Sept. 12. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin

Route recon keeps enemy guessing



Marine engineers with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), dismount to investigate a dried river bed, or wadi, during a route reconnaissance mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Sept. 1. Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

1ST MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Marine engineers with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, currently deployed with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, conducted a route reconnaissance mission to find alternate routes to travel when conducting resupply

SEE **ROUTE** PG 3

Japanese National Census Information

Staff Sgt. Michael A. Freeman

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will be conducting the Japanese National Census Sept. 23 through Oct. 7 in Okinawa.

Status of Forces Agreement personnel will not be included in the census. However, U.S. Armed Forces personnel, civilian component and family members residing outside U.S. facilities here should help the enumerators by showing them your identification card. This will ensure the census takers don't include SOFA personnel in the census.

Official enumerators will carry English language certificates issued by the Director General, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan.

Military Police train to be marksmen

Lance Cpl. J Nava

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — Marines from 1st Marine Aircraft Wing's Military Police Company conducted training with the M39 Enhanced Marksmanship Rifle at Range 2 here, Sept. 10.

Two platoons participated in the training, one of

which is currently attached to Combat Logistics Battalion 3, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

The purpose of the training was to select six Marines from each of the platoons to serve as designated marksmen.

SEE **SNIPER** PG 5

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Dances and delicious food kick off the month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage.

PG. 8

TWINS TOGETHER STILL

Born moments apart, twins join the Corps, serve together throughout.

PG. 10

Suicide affects everybody

Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

Several years ago I encountered one of the most traumatic experiences in my life. A young recruit who was firing on the rifle range died as a result of self-inflicted head wound. Although nearly a decade ago, I can remember the incident as if it were yesterday ...

As the shot was fired, time appeared to instantly slow down for me.

As the senior enlisted man on the range at the time, I rushed to the scene only to find a near-lifeless body of a young man who was no more than 19 years old. Adrenaline began to rush as I realized I had a huge responsibility to that young man and the commander to quickly gain control of the situation.

As I attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation, I also started frantically issuing orders to request a medical evacuation; get 100 percent accountability for all personnel, weapons and rounds; alert the command group and the many other administrative tasks associated with such an incident. A midst all of those responsibilities, I distinctively remember wondering "Why did he do this?" "Did he think about how it will affect his family?" and "What could've been so hard to deal with at such a young age?"

Those thoughts were interrupted by the range corpsman yelling to me "He's gone!"

Once all of my necessary administrative actions were completed, I walked away to gather my thoughts. What a horrible experience.

For the next few days, the unit brought in the chaplain and a variety of other specialists to help all of us through the difficult time and

to train us on how to deal with the trauma associated. Eventually, we were all able to put the event behind us and continue our training.

Now, as I read the sergeant major of the Marine Corps' comments about the increase in the Corps' suicide rate, see the many American Forces Network commercials, and receive the variety of emails from higher headquarters, I am reminded that dealing with the aftermath of a suicide is far worse than preventing it -- both on the administrative and personal sides.

I sincerely hope that no one has to ever deal with what I dealt with that day on the range, and I am urging my fellow leaders to heed the warning signs of a potential suicide. Ensure our noncommissioned officers are trained on prevention techniques and indicators. Additionally, I am asking that we continue to educate our junior Marines about ways to deal with their problems.

There are several tools available to help prevent

these tragedies from happening. One resource is the application of the acronym RACE: recognize, ask, care, and escort. This acronym summarizes the steps an individual should follow to take an active role in suicide prevention or intervention.

Recognize the signs of distress; ask about the signs of distress ... and suicide if appropriate; care about the Marine and show it; and escort the person to safety.

Unit chaplains also have some extremely useful advice and tools available too.

For information about available training, contact your unit chaplain, or visit <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent>.

Wright is the Press Chief for the Okinawa Marine.

“ I am urging my fellow leaders to heed the warning signs of a potential suicide. ”

This Week in History

U.S. MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

September 17, 2007 - Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 became the first combat squadron to deploy with the MV-22 Osprey aircraft. VMM-263 departed from Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., for a seven-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The first of the Ospreys landed in Iraq in early October.

September 18, 1990 - A new 40-acre training facility for Military Operations in Urban Terrain was dedicated at Camp Lejeune, N.C., by Gen. Alfred M. Gray, 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

September 20, 1982 - President Ronald Reagan announced U.S. forces will again join French and Italian troops in Beirut to enable the government of Lebanon to resume control of the city. Reagan's decision was spurred by the massacre of hundreds of Muslim Palestinians, reportedly by Lebanese Christian militiamen, in two Beirut refugee camps.

September 20, 1950 - Marines of 1st Marine Division crossed the Han River along a six-mile beachhead, eight miles northwest of Seoul, Korea, during the Korean Conflict. Five days later, the 1st and 5th Marine Regiments attacked Seoul and the city was captured by Sept. 27.

September 21, 1992 - The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit command element was reactivated during ceremonies at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan. It would provide the III Marine Expeditionary Force with a permanent amphibious planning and execution element in the Western Pacific. The 31st MEU was previously active from 1967 to 1985.

September 22, 1945 - 5th Marine Division, V Amphibious Corps, began landing at Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan, as part of the occupation force during World War II. One day later, 2nd Marine Division, V Amphibious Corps, began landing at Nagasaki, Kyushu, Japan.

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Off-limits establishments are in effect for all Status of Forces Agreement personnel attached to or accompanying III Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine Corps Bases Japan personnel. This includes all military members, civilian personnel (including contractors), and all family members in accordance with Marine Corps Bases Japan Order 5420.2A.

- Shampoo
- Ground Tobacco Shop
- Events hosted by Parties International
- Hotel Takahara
- Tokyo Shoten Bookstores
- Bernard's Garage
- Yoshihara Red Light District

OKINAWA MARINE

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COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 2nd Lt. Lindsay M. Pirek

PRESS CHIEF Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

DESIGN EDITOR Audra A. Satterlee

OKINAWA MARINE NEWSPAPER

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Unit 35002
FPO AP 96373-5002

CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster
DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
DSN 623-4224

ROUTE FROM PG 1

missions in northern Helmand province, Afghanistan, Sept. 1.

"A route recon mission is being able to identify an existing route's service traffic ability and any obstacles or any existing compounds along the way," said Capt. Tyrone A. Barrion, company commander for Bulk Fuel Company, 9th ESB. "You want to be able to provide anyone else who wants to take the route in the future as much information as possible so it's not as surprising when they run down that road."

During a route recon mission, Marine engineers dismount from their tactical vehicles and gather any possible information they can find about the path they traveled on to plan better routes for later missions, explained Barrion.

"Most of the work is done while we are dismounted," said Barrion. "We're checking the foundation, looking at



Capt. Tyrone A. Barrion, left, company commander for Bulk Fuel Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), looks on as 1st Sgt. Keith W. Coombs, company first sergeant for Support Company, 9th ESB, 1st MLG (FWD), uses his optics to check out the terrain on the horizon during a route reconnaissance mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Sept. 1.



Marine engineers with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), talk to local nationals to gather more information about their location during a route reconnaissance mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Sept. 1. Marine engineers gather as much information about the path they travel to plan better routes for future missions. Photos by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

the soil composition, identifying the sharp and easy curves, the gradient of the route. We identify the obstacles, take measurements, coordinates and write descriptions for all we find as well as (take) photographs so others can see for themselves."

A route recon mission is an important step to any mission, Barrion said. It sets the foundation for future personnel to work with before conducting a mission. Not knowing the details of a route before conducting a mission could result in a delay of mission accomplishment.

"A route might look good on a map because you see a road there, but unless you know what it looks like, then that road means nothing to you," said Barrion.

They must plan the route for various types of vehicles to pass through, Barrion explained. A steep hill can be easy for a tactical vehicle to negotiate, but it might cause problems for a logistics vehicle carrying a load. Marine engineers make sure to plan alternate routes while conducting their mission.

"The most important thing for us is to be able to have options during a mission," said Barrion. "The more options we have of which route to take, the more work the enemy has to do to hit us, which provides us a safer and faster passage to resupply our friendly units."

By having multiple options, Marines are keeping the enemy guessing, Barrion said. The warriors will have a better chance of avoiding roadside bombs, ambushes or artilleries, and therefore, improving mission accomplishment.

"Being able to get from point A to point B is not mission accomplishment," said Lt. Col. Ted A. Adams, commanding officer for 9th ESB. "It's the journey in between those points that counts. If we don't hit any IEDs, don't get ambushed by the enemy and are able to resupply those men and women faster during our missions, then that's mission accomplishment."

MIC3 gives military youth, families new website, resources

Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE PRESS CHIEF

CAMP FOSTER — The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission recently launched their new website. The website, www.mic3.net, is designed to inform the public about the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunities for military children and serve the needs of the military family, according to MIC3 officials. It will also provide valuable resources, news, contact information, links and recent rulings by the commission.

The compact itself provides for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states, according to Norman E. Arflack, executive director, Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunities for Military Children.

"We feel that our website is the means by which we can transmit our roles and missions to all members of the public but specifically to military families and students as they are the primary reason our organization was created," he said adding the website is designed to explain why the organization exists.

"(The website discusses) what services are provided and other pertinent information to provide parity in educational opportunities for students who are military dependents as they transition with their parents from one duty station to the next."

Specifically, the compact addresses issues such as transfer of records, course sequencing, graduation requirements, exclusion from extra-curricular activities, redundant or missed entrance/exit testing and power of custodial parents while parents are deployed.

"Although the Armed Forces do an outstanding job in supporting families during transition, students are impacted by a changing school environment which includes but is not limited to displacement from estab-

lished friendships, making new friends in the new location, variance in academic standards, requirements for entry into school and graduation, and participation in extra-curricular activities," Arflack said.

"The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission addresses key educational issues encountered by military children due to frequent school changes," said Diana Mizell, the school liaison officer for Marine Corps Bases Japan. "Military children move an average of six to nine times during their K-12 years, many making several moves during high school years, some even during their senior year."

Mizell added that it is extremely important to aid young military children with the difficult transition between schools.

"Courses, programs, academic standards and graduation requirements vary greatly from school to school and state to state," said Mizell adding that this compact and website will assist families with these varying policies.

"(We must) ensure a quality educational experience for all military children who are affected by many factors including parental separations, frequent moves, disrupted relationships with friends and adapting to new communities and transitions," she said.

At the time of publishing of this article, 35 states have adopted the compact, according to Mizell.

The Department of Defense will continue to work with the commission, Council of State Governments, national organizations, and state leaders to bring the remaining states on board, according to MIC3 officials.

"As executive director I work with the State Commissioners, military families, and state boards of education to resolve questions as they arise during transition," Arflack added.

For the list of member states or for more information, visit www.mic3.net.

BRIEFS**NEW OFF-LIMITS ESTABLISHMENT**

Effective Aug. 27 Yoshihara Red Light District is off-limits to all Status of Forces Agreement personnel attached to or accompanying III Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine Corps Bases Japan personnel. This includes all military members, civilian personnel (including contractors), and all family members in accordance with Marine Corps Bases Japan Order 5420.2A.

FOSTER POWER OUTAGES SEPT. 25

Camp Foster will have a power outage affecting Plaza Housing, the northern end of Kishaba Housing, Sada Housing, North Foster Towers, operational/support areas west of the "Spot," Fort Buckner and Futenma Housing on Sept. 25 from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information, call 645-7313.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TOUR

A team from Defense Media Activity San Antonio will be filming holiday greetings from service members and family members on Okinawa bases from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. as follows:

- Sept. 30 at the Camp Foster exchange
- Oct. 1-2 at the Banyan Tree Golf Course Club House on Kadena Air Base
- Oct. 4 at the Camp Hansen exchange

Holiday greetings will be recorded on a first come, first served basis, and members from all services are invited to participate. Greetings will be released to local and regional television stations in the service member's home town during the upcoming holiday season. For more information, call 645-9306.

KINSER FLEA MARKET CANCELLATION

The Sept. 18-19 Flea Market on Camp Kinser has been cancelled. The next MCCS flea market will be held from 7-10 a.m. Sept. 25-26 on Camp Courtney.

For more information, call 645-5829.

RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY

The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act established Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay providing \$500 for each month/partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, veterans and beneficiaries of service members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for RSLSP. To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay by Oct. 21.

Service members who voluntarily re-enlisted or extended their service, are no longer eligible to receive retroactive stop loss special pay.

For more information and to begin the RSLSP claim process, visit your service-specific site listed below.

- **Marine Corps:** www.manpower.usmc.mil/stoploss, call 877-242-2830, or e-mail stoploss@usmc.mil
- **Army:** www.stoplosspay.army.mil
- **Navy:** www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/MILPERSMAN7000FinancialMgmt/7220_410.htm
- **Air Force:** www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss/

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

H&S Bn. gets new CO

Col. Nicholas F. Nanna replaced Lt. Col. James E. Howard as commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler. Nanna was last assigned as the chief of staff for I Marine Expeditionary Brigade. Howard is currently serving as the chief of Borders and Ports of Entry with the Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission, Baghdad.



Nanna



Howard

Ceremony opens construction for CDC

Lance Cpl. Kris B. Daberkoe

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Service members, civilians and the local community attended a traditional Shinto ceremony to commemorate the breaking of ground of the new Child Development Center here, Sept. 9.

In Japanese tradition, new buildings require a ceremony to prepare the land for construction and ensure the safe progress of the project involved.

During the Shinto rituals, known as a "Jichinsai," a Shinto priest, or "Kannushi," performs a ritual to cleanse the construction site for the safety of the workers.

The rituals are intended to purify and consecrate the land where the building is to be built.

"The ceremony gives the company and employees peace of mind knowing the land was prayed over," said Roosevelt Sanders, a construction management engineer on Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

The new CDC on Camp Foster will accommodate an increase of 50 percent more children and include all of the amenities needed for Marine Corps Community Services' Children, Youth & Teen Programs, said Jeff El-Bdour, Child Development Services Program coordinator with MCCS Children, Youth & Teen Programs. The new CDC will also boast a staff of 70 employees.

"These individuals will be trained and prepared to offer the highest quality of early childhood education experiences for the children that will participate in the center," said El-Bdour.

Plans for the 1,372 square meter CDC were created to increase available child care for families on base, said Sanders.

The new CDC will increase child care capacity for Camp Foster which is currently limited at 208. The new facility will allow an additional 104 children to receive care. The additional CDC spaces will be allotted for eight infants, 20 pre-toddler age children, 28 toddler age children and 48 pre-school age children.

The \$4.6 million project follows a Green Building rating system which determines the energy efficiency and environmental friendliness of the construction project.

Construction projects or buildings are judged using one of the four levels which are; Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

The single-story, reinforced-concrete building will meet the Green Building Rating Silver standard.

"The rating is determined by a credit or point system based on how the construction projects or building utilize environmentally friendly building practices during construction or remodeling," said Sanders.

Completion for the new Child Development Center is scheduled for the summer of 2011.



Representatives from Marine Corps Community Services, Gushiken Architectural Design, WITCO Industries and the deputy resident officer in charge of construction for Camp Butler with Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East, prepare to symbolically "break ground" on the construction of the new Child Development Center Sept. 9 on Camp Foster. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kris B. Daberkoe

Free prostate cancer screening available at USNH

USNH Public Affairs

CAMP LESTER — September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and U. S. Naval Hospital Okinawa is holding a free prostate cancer screening clinic from 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Sept. 23 at the hospital Urology Clinic.

In the United States, prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men other than skin cancer. Prostate cancer is the 3rd leading cause of cancer death for men in the United States, following lung

cancer and colorectal cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2010 an estimated 217,730 American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and more than 32,050 will succumb to the disease.

The key to survival is screening and early detection.

Screening consists of a blood test for Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) followed by an exam to assess the risk of prostate cancer. The clinic is open to men over the age of 40 eligible for care at military

medical facilities in Okinawa.

No appointment is necessary and the clinic is free for pay patients, but participants must have their PSA test drawn before the day of the clinic. There are three simple steps to participating in the screening clinic:

1. Call 643-7360 or 643-7552 to request the PSA blood test
2. Have blood drawn for the PSA at the hospital laboratory a few days prior to the clinic (now until Sept. 22, from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
3. Come to the USNH Urology

Clinic, located on the 2nd floor of the hospital, between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sept. 23 to get the exam and obtain the PSA results.

The annual Prostate Cancer Screening Clinic is a community outreach event of U. S. Naval Hospital Okinawa to raise awareness for prostate cancer screening and early detection. If you are a male over the age of 40 eligible for care at military health care facilities in Okinawa, call 643-7360 or 643-7552 to initiate this important and potentially life-saving screening.

SNIPER FROM PG 1

The designated marksmen's role will be to carry out all duties as a field MP and also provide long-range capabilities for their respective platoons.

"Having this capability helps a lot because it gives us long-range and precision threat capabilities," said Lance Cpl. Mackenzie Sansom, a military policeman with MP Company, CLB-3. "We can take out targets with a single shot rather than having to use machine guns."

The Marines started the training with familiarization of the M39 EMR. For many of the Marines, this was their first opportunity to use this weapon.

"This was the first time I was able to employ this weapon and at the beginning I was little confused," said Lance Cpl. Winston Bremner, military policeman, MP Company, 1st MAW.

"But the instructors taught us everything we needed to know and at the end I shot pretty well."

The course of fire that determined which Marines would become designated marksmen consisted of three rounds of fire after an initial Battle Sight Zero, where the Marines adjusted the scope to their own specifications.

The first round consisted of a stress test where the Marines performed a quick and intense workout away from their firing positions and then sprinted to their rifles. From the moment they reached their rifle the Marines had six minutes to fire and ac-

curately place 15 rounds downrange from the prone, sitting and kneeling positions.

The second round was T-zone grouping on command, where Marines had to place shots in the "T-Box" of a paper target at an instructors command.

The "T-Box" is an imaginary letter "T" that forms across a person's brow and down the bridge of their nose. Marksmen are instructed to aim for this area when they want a kill shot.

During this exercise an instructor counts down from five. The shooters are instructed to fire at the "T-Box" in unison once they hear the first sound of the word two.

This exercise is designed to train Marines for a shot initiated entry scenario, where a team stands ready to infiltrate a structure as soon as the designated marksmen take out the targets inside.

In the final round, shooters had five minutes to shoot five rounds at five, two inch bull's-eyes.

At the end of the course of fire the targets were gathered and the points were tallied up. Six Marines from each platoon became designated marksmen but every Marine came away with a newfound knowledge of the weapon and its uses.

"This training opens up more opportunities for us as MP's," Sansom said. "It gives me better background and better capabilities as an MP."

For additional photos visit www.okinawa.usmc.mil.



Sgt. Louis Henriquez, military policeman with MP Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, tries to find his eye relief at Range 2 at Camp Hansen, Sept. 10. Photo by Lance Cpl. J Nava



Lance Corporal Tony I. A. Kantor, a gunner with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, looks through a lens to direct an unseen Marine where to place firing poles at the East Fuji artillery range during Artillery Relocation Training Program Exercise 2010-2 on Camp Fuji Sept. 12. Photo by Lance Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin

FUJI FROM PG 1

Marines of Battery B fired artillery ammunition utilizing five M777 Howitzers, each crewed by a group of nine to 11 Marines.

The Howitzer has a range of 15 to 25 miles depending on the ammunition fired and uses a digital fire control system for navigation, aiming and self-location, increasing its accuracy and ability to be quickly employed, according to Lance Cpl. Tony I. A. Kantor, a gunner with Battery B.

The Marines fired 155mm high explosive, smoke or illumination ammunitions from the Howitzers throughout the day in varying quantities, depending on the fire mission given to them.

The training we do here is extremely important because most of these guys have not trained in an area such as Fuji, said Sgt. Dustin R. Zimmerman, the section chief for Gun 5, Battery B.

According to Zimmerman, one obstacle he and his Marines had to deal with during the exercise was the weather. "It would go from hot to cold, sunny to cloudy and clear to foggy," he added.

"This is a good opportunity for the Marines," said Zimmerman. "They get a chance to build on the skills that they already have while strengthening the relationship we have built with other units."

Lance Cpl. Thomas Turner, Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, asks the Republic of Korea Marine commanders questions about standard operating procedures during an after-action convoy review.



Marines from Transport Battalion, Amphibious Support Group, 1st Republic of Korea Marine Corps Division provide security for a training convoy while reacting to a simulated improvised explosive device during bilateral convoy training. U.S. Marines and ROK Marines train together during Korean Interoperability Training Program 2010.



ROK, US Motor T Marines practice convoy

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Abigail Wharton
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines from Transport Battalion, Amphibious Support Group, 1st Republic of Korea Marine Corps Division and Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, participated in convoy operations training, Sept. 1-3.

Twenty-eight U.S. Marines and 33 ROK Marines participated in the bilateral training, part of the Korean Interoperability Training Program 2010.

The training began at Camp Mujuk, Korea, with classes and then progressed to a field exercise.

"We introduced the ROK Marines to the nomenclature and capabilities of the medium tactical vehicle replacement and the tow-bar for the [Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement truck] and high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle," said Sgt. Jose Fernandez, platoon sergeant, Motor Transport Co., CLB-4. "We also had classes on the M249 squad automatic weapon and how to mount it on vehicles followed by competitions between the ROK and U.S. Marines to see who could mount them faster."

We also demonstrated how to load quadruple containers on the back of MTRVs, he added.

Once in the field, the group practiced immediate action drills which simulated the convoy encountering enemy fire or being hit by an improvised explosive device.

"This will build more confidence in the Marines to perform better,"

Fernandez said. "When you practice responses to things like this you already know how to respond in an actual incident."

The Marines involved were able to gain experience, not only in convoy operations, but also in working with counterparts from another culture.

"This is good experience for us, but especially our new Marines," Fernandez commented.

During the training the Marines were able to compare equipment and tactics with their ROK counterparts.

"This is a good opportunity for my Marines to see that other countries do the same missions that we do -- with less equipment," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Wheeler, company gunnery sergeant, Motor Transport Co., CLB-4. "I think they need to take advantage of this training and be appreciative of the equipment we do have."

Lance Cpl. Dae Hyun Kim, Transport Battalion, ASG, 1st ROK Marine Corps Division said the training allowed them to learn a lot about the equipment and things the unit would like to change in the future.

"Now we will have a better understanding of each other and will be able to fight together better," he said.

"Through this training we have been able to enhance our interoperability with the ROK Marine Corps by being able to learn each other's tactics and apply it to whatever situation we have," Fernandez said.

To conclude the training, the Marines conducted a presentation for the command staff including Col. Jay L. Hatton, KITP '10 and CLR-3 commanding officer and Lt. Col. Adam L. Chakley, the CLB-4 commanding officer.



Marines from Transport Battalion, Amphibious Support Group, 1st Republic of Korea Marine Corps Division in reaction to a simulated improvised explosive device during bilateral convoy training. U.S. Marines and ROK Marines train together during Korean Interoperability Training Program 2010.





oy operations



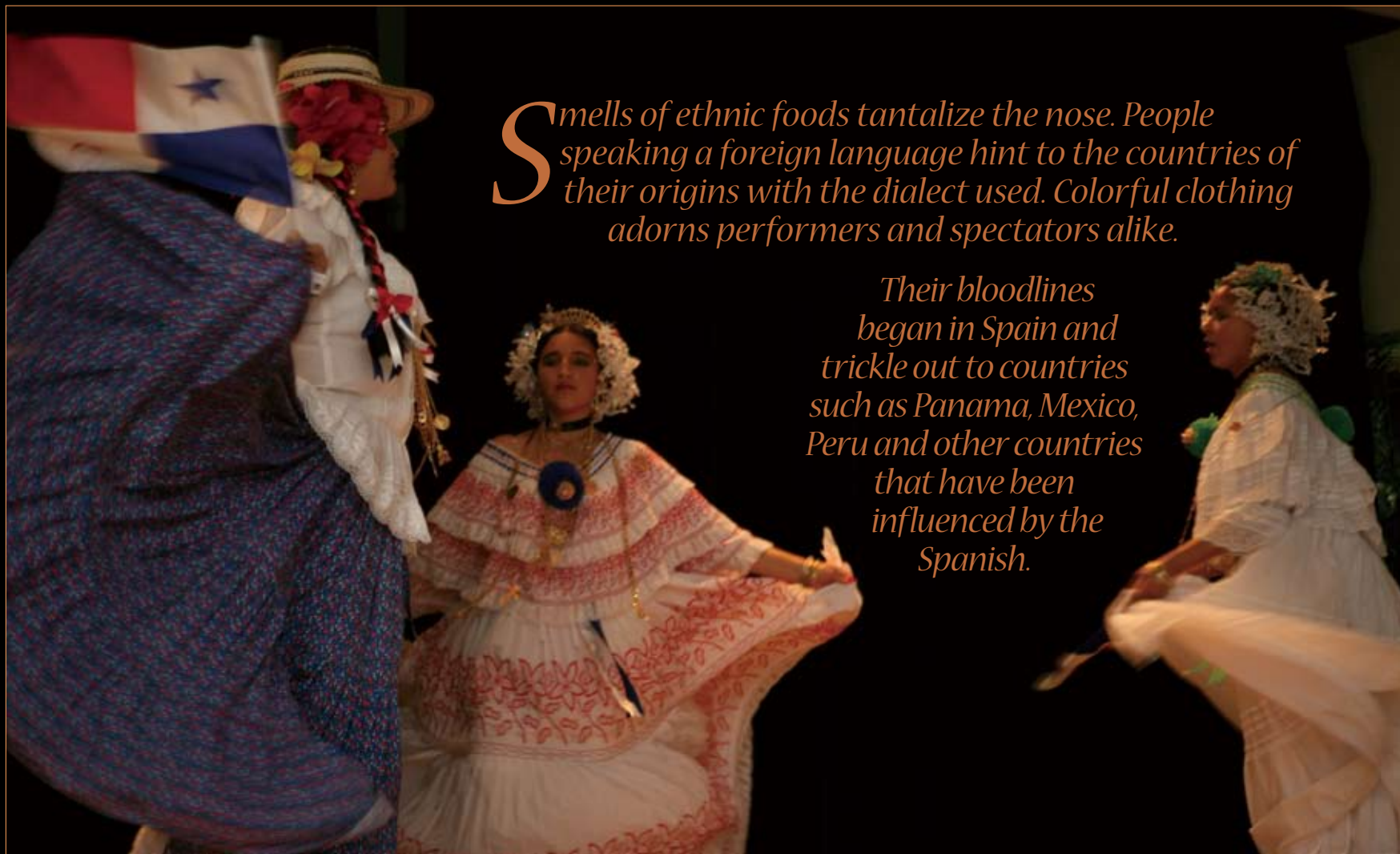
ic of Korea Marine Corps Division, dismount their vehicle
convoy operations. U.S. Marines and ROK Marines train



Seaman Curtis Higgs, hospital corpsman, Company C, 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, provides security during a practice convoy operation. Twenty-eight Marines from Motor Transport Company, CLB-4, CLR-3, 3rd MLG, III MEF and 33 Marines from Transport Battalion, Amphibious Support Group, 1st Republic of Korea Marine Corps Division participate in bilateral training, part of the Korean Interoperability Training Program 2010, Sept. 1-3.



Marines from Transport Battalion, Amphibious Support Group, 1st Republic of Korea Marine Corps Division and Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force participate in bilateral convoy training.



Smells of ethnic foods tantalize the nose. People speaking a foreign language hint to the countries of their origins with the dialect used. Colorful clothing adorns performers and spectators alike.

Their bloodlines began in Spain and trickle out to countries such as Panama, Mexico, Peru and other countries that have been influenced by the Spanish.

Dancers representing Panamanian culture perform the "Danzon Cumbia" during the "Taste of Hispanic Food" event at the Schilling Community Center on Kadena Air Base, Sept. 12. The "Danzon Cumbia," was brought to Panama during colonial times.

Community dance kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Kris B. Daberkoe
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Despite the variety of backgrounds, Status of Force Agreement personnel gathered to celebrate their Hispanic origins during the Taste of Hispanic Foods at Schilling Community Center on Kadena Air Base, Sunday, as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

"One in every six Marines serving in the Marine Corps is of Hispanic background," said Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Barden, an equal opportunity representative with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Any (ethnicity) or religion that has stood up in the past for our country's values deserves to have a period of time dedicated to honor that group's sacrifices and achievements."

The event offered service members and civilians the opportunity to sample a variety of ethnic foods and culture from several Latin-American countries, said Fil Jimenez, deputy director for installation support, 18th Mission Support Group.

Samplers casted ballots on which dish was the best while watching dancers perform traditional dances native to their respective countries, said Ruth Velasco, a lead choreographer with Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Okinawa.

Traditional dances such as "Jesusita en Chihuahua," "Tango de Malaga," "Pio Pio," and "Danzon Cumbia" were performed.

"I love being able to dance with people with similar roots as me," said Rose Winkle, an Army spouse. "It's like being with my family; I get a great sense of camaraderie."

The Taste of Hispanic Food event is just one of many events taking place during Hispanic Heritage Month, said Jimenez.

"We use the Taste of Hispanic Food event to kick off His-

panic Heritage Month," said Jimenez. "We have a variety of activities going on until Oct. 15."

For more information about upcoming events during Hispanic Heritage Month contact Fil Jimenez at 634-1804.

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles about Hispanic Heritage Month.

"I love being able to dance with people with similar roots as me. It's like being with my family; I get a great sense of camaraderie."

- Rose Winkle



Dancers with Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Okinawa perform "Los Machetes" during the "Taste of Hispanic Food" event at the Schilling Community Center on Kadena Air Base, Sept. 12. "Los Machetes" is a traditional song and dance representing farmers harvesting corn and sugarcane; this job requires considerable dexterity with the machete.

Company B, H&S Bn. motivates, rewards NCOs

Lance Cpl. Heather N. Choate

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The company commander and company first sergeant of Company B, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler recently created a program to motivate and reward their noncommissioned officers.

The intent of the program, "Moto Ten," is to take 10 stellar NCO's from Co. B one day a month to learn about other Military Occupational Specialties and talk with the company commander, Capt. P. C. Drew, about what it means to be an NCO and his expectations of them. The first event of the program will kick off on Sept. 28 and 30. The 10 motivated Marines will be split into groups of five for this event.

"We want to take the NCOs out of the shop and show them some of the cool things they are provided in the Marine Corps, as well as sitting them down and discussing what it is they should be doing as an NCO," said Drew.

Topic ideas that may be covered are Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction Rigging, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, rappelling and simulated munitions training.

"I expect them to be taking charge of the mission that needs to be accomplished and translating that mission into individual tasks for their junior Marines," he said.

1st Sgt. Jacob J. Whitley, Co. B first sergeant, recognizes that factors such as being away from loved ones play into low morale. With this program, he and Drew both hope to raise morale in the company by presenting the Marines with new opportunities to work towards, and motivate the leadership who set the tone for morale in the barracks.

Whitley believes that it's not the Marines who go out and participate in the program that benefit the most, but the Marines who sit back and hear the stories when the NCO returns. He hopes this



Moto Ten is a program designed to recognize the top 10 noncommissioned officers from Company B, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, by providing special training opportunities one day a month to learn about other Military Occupational Specialties and to talk with the company leaders. Topic ideas that may be covered are Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction Rigging, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, rappelling and simulated munitions training to name a few. *Graphic courtesy of Combat Camera*

program will be an incentive to get all Marines to step up and be the Marines Company B and the Corps need them to be.

"We want to reward the motivating Marines that are doing a great job and that deserve this opportunity," said Whitley. "Moto Ten is a way for us to go out with our Marines, have a good time and show them what the rest of the Corps is doing."

One-on-one training with NCOs is expected to develop leadership skills. We hope this will empower the NCOs to help increase morale in the barracks and to decrease on- and off-base in-

cidents among the junior Marines, said Whitley.

"We want our Marines to know their command does care about them, and once they feel and realize that someone does care about them, they begin to feel a part of something, and all those issues will go away," explained Whitley.

Company B leaders stress that even though Marines may be assigned with base, they are no different than other Marines in the Corps. A Marine is a Marine.

Marines' section heads can contact Whitley via e-mail with names of motivated NCOs they would like to participate in these events.

PMO takes the mystery out of misplaced items

Lance Cpl. Kris B. Daberkoe

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Have you ever had a belonging mysteriously disappear from a pocket or bag? Maybe you set down a wallet or cellular phone for a brief moment only to return to find it missing; like it evaporated into thin air?

The Marines at the Provost Marshal Offices island-wide offer a possible solution for Status of Forces Agreement personnel who have lost an important item or are trying to return valuable property to its owner.

Racked with lost property, the lost and found section of the PMOs on Okinawa receive a diverse range of items such as hats, bikes, skateboards, diving gear and portable music devices, according to PMO officials.

"We have a lot of items that no one ever claims, so it's worth it to take a look," said Cpl. Kenneth Gable, military policeman with PMO, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

After a lost item is turned in, it goes through a chain of documentation to record who had possession of the lost item beginning with the individual who delivered it to PMO.

"We receive anywhere from 1 to 15 lost items a day," said Lance Cpl. Steven Brown, a military policeman with Camp Foster PMO.

After the item is turned in, PMO then logs the descrip-

tion of the item and files an evidence custody receipt.

To retrieve an item from the lost and found, the owner has to describe the item by color and distinguishing marks to prove that it's theirs. If the item has the owner's contact information on it, PMO will contact the owner.

Gable said that the best way to prevent losing an item is keeping an eye on personal belongings; but, in the event an item is misplaced, marking belongings with first and last name and a contact phone number will help in the claims process.

"If there is a scratch or dent on the item, remember where it is because it will make the identification part easier," said Brown.

Most items turned into lost and found are brought to the PMO because the item has either a monetary or personal value; but, sometimes items are turned in that are consumables and can easily be replaced. These items are thrown away.

Most items received by the lost and found sections are recovered by their rightful owner after only a couple of weeks, according to Gable.

Articles remaining in the lost and found for more than six months are sent to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.

"The lost and found is just one resource people can use to search for missing property," said Gable. "People respond with relief after finding an iPhone or wallet in our storage room."

Born together, raised together, now serving together

Life is full of challenges. While most have to battle it on their own, two 'devil dogs' from Hattiesburg, Miss., have been lucky enough to have their brother to help along the way.

Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Denny

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Corporals Ricky D. Dunn Jr. and Rodrick O. Dunn, 21-year-old identical twins assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, Motor Transport, III MEF, have been side-by-side their whole lives.

From the day they were born, they did everything together, whether it was out playing with friends or causing their mother headaches, said Beatrice L. Dunn, mother of Ricky and Rodrick.

"We have always had a close-knit family and their close bond has taught us all how to love other people and love each other," she added.

"They both played football in high school ... making sure the other one excelled," said their mother. "Ricky would compete against Rodrick, coming home after each game, comparing each other about who had the better play and what the other one did wrong. This is how they made each other stronger."

"We have competed against each other in everything we've done since we were young," said Ricky. "We've been doing everything together for as long as I can remember. Growing up, we went to the same schools, had most of the same classes, played football and ran track together. We got our first job together and then we joined the Marine Corps together."

On Sept. 7, 2007, the two stood side-by-side on the yellow footprints of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

While enduring the rigors of recruit training, they continued to push each other by staying competitive.

"Rodrick was the first one promoted to private first class, meritoriously out of boot camp. I did everything I could to catch up in (Military Occupational Specialty) school," Ricky said.

"Graduating boot camp with my brother, becoming Marines, was the best day of my life," said Ricky.

Once both brothers achieved the rank of private first class, they continued to compete and look out for one another "not letting each other fall behind in the Marine Corps, MOS and life," said Rodrick.



Cpl. Ricky D. Dunn Jr., left and Cpl. Rodrick O. Dunn, with III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, Motor Transport, III MEF, are identical twins who joined the Corps in 2007 and have been together every step of the way. The Dunn brothers were in the same recruit training platoon, Marine Combat Training platoon, military occupation specialty school, duty station and unit together. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Denny

The Dunn brothers have an older brother, Thomas J. Long, who served in the Marine Corps from 2001-2005 and an older cousin who was in the Corps in the 90s.

"I joined the Marines because of stories from our older brother and cousin and they (convinced) me that it was a good decision and once I joined, my brother followed," stated Rodrick.

"They had the same boot camp platoon, same Marine Combat Training platoon, same military occupational specialty, same duty station and the same unit," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Jannifer R.

Williams, career retention specialist for 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Recently, the two brothers re-enlisted and may be heading separate ways for the first time in their lives, said Williams.

"I will stay in for as long as the Corps keeps me," mentioned Ricky.

"The challenges of the Corps have been easier for the both of us, having our twin brother and best friend right by our side since the day we joined," said Rodrick.

The brothers have been able to do many things together in the Marine Corps including being in

the same color guard, with one twin serving as the right rifleman and the other serving as the left rifleman. They were also promoted to lance corporal on the same day and corporal within days of each other.

"Being promoted next to my brother was a great accomplishment," said Rodrick.

Rodrick was promoted to corporal based on his cutting score and Ricky was promoted meritoriously, said Sgt. Rico O. Brown, noncommissioned officer in charge of the brothers, with III MHG, Motor Transport.

The Dunn's had leadership qualities before they were promoted in rank. As new arrivals to the unit, they were squared away and began doing everything in their power to get promoted, added Brown.

"I never had to watch over Ricky and Rodrick; when they were told to do something, they did it," stated Brown.

The brothers' history makes them work well as a team, which has proven beneficial to their current command.

"When projects need to be completed, the Dunn brothers are usually chosen to complete them together, with their superiors knowing it will be completed fast and smooth," said Williams.

During their time on Okinawa, the twins have volunteered for multiple projects and both have gone on various deployments and exercises throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

"It has made life a little easier to have my brother and best friend overseas, while away from our family and friends," said Rodrick. "When something goes wrong or we are dealing with some personal issues, friends are great to have in the military but having family allows us to open up and solve our problems and (get back to completing the mission)," he said, adding that it is also nice to have family around during the holiday season.

"I couldn't be more proud of my boys and the things they have accomplished," said their mother. "When they told me they were joining, I had the typical worries of a mother but I, along with our family, was supportive of their decision, knowing they made it well."

In Theaters Now

SEPT. 17 - SEPT. 23

FOSTER

TODAY Nanny McPhee Returns (PG), 6 p.m.; Machete (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Nanny McPhee Returns (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG), 6 p.m.; Predators (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Nanny McPhee Returns (PG), 1 p.m.; Grown Ups (PG13), 4 p.m.; Resident Evil: Afterlife (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Grown Ups (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Knight & Day (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Resident Evil: Afterlife (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Takers (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Inception (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY Despicable Me (PG), 5 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Predators (R), 6 p.m.; The A-Team (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Takers (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG), 2 p.m.; Predators (R), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Resident Evil: Afterlife (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Resident Evil: Afterlife (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The A-Team (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Machete (R), 7 p.m.

KINSER

TODAY Predators (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG), 3 p.m.; Predators (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG), 3 p.m.; Predators (R), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Resident Evil: Afterlife (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG), 3 and 6:30 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Resident Evil: Afterlife (R), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Despicable Me (PG), 2 p.m.; Inception (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Despicable Me (PG), 2 p.m.; Takers (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Inception (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Machete (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

KADENA

TODAY The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG), 6 p.m.; Predators (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG), noon and 3 p.m.; Predators (R), 6 p.m.; Machete (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; Machete (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Machete (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Predators (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Takers (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Takers (PG13), 7 p.m.

FUTENMA

TODAY Inception (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Resident Evil: Afterlife (R), 1, 4 and 7 p.m.
SUNDAY The Other Guys (PG13), 4 p.m.; Inception (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Takers (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
(USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
(USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
(USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.aafes.com.



For more information, or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

All bus pick-up points will be at Semper Fit gyms or the Foster Fieldhouse.

BATTLE SITES TOUR: SEPT. 24

- Learn about the Battle of Okinawa during a tour of the island. Visit some significant battle-sites to include the Kakazu Ridge, Japanese Naval Underground, Peace Prayer Park and Kinser Museum. Bus will leave MCAS Futenma at 7:20 a.m. and Camp Kinser at 8 a.m. Sign up deadline is Sept. 17.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Camp Foster Boys and Girls Club Day for Kids and Worldwide Day of Play Event from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Camp Kinser Children, Youth and Teen Program Day for Kids from noon - 6 p.m.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

CAMP FOSTER | 645-7486

- Catholic:** Mon-Fri, 11:45 a.m.; Sat, 5 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m.
- Christian Science:** Sun, 11 a.m., Bldg. 442
- Eastern Orthodox:** Sun, 9:30 a.m., Vespers, Sat, 5 p.m.
- Gospel:** Sun, 11:30 a.m.
- Hindu:** Sat, 3:30 p.m.
- Jewish:** Informal: 1st, 3rd Fri, 6:30 p.m.
- Lutheran:** Sun, 5 p.m.
- Muslim:** Fri, Prayer, 12:45 p.m.
- Protestant:** Sun, 8:30 a.m.

CAMP SCHWAB | 622-9350

- Catholic:** Sun, 5:30 p.m.
- Protestant:** Sun, 4 p.m.

CAMP COURTNEY | 622-9350

- Catholic:** Sun, 8 a.m.
- Latter Day Saints:** Sun, 6:30 p.m., Library
- Protestant:** Sun, 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday School:** Sun, 9:30 a.m.

CAMP HANSEN | 622-9350

- Catholic:** Sun, 10 a.m., E. Chapel
- Protestant:** Sun, 12:30 p.m., E. Chapel
- Sunday School:** Sun, 11 a.m., E. Chapel

CAMP MCTUREOUS | 622-9350

- Gospel:** Sun, 12:30 p.m.

KADENA AIR BASE | 634-1288

- Catholic:** Sun, 8:30 a.m., Mass, Chapel 3; Sun, 11:30 a.m., Reconciliation, Chapel 3; Sun, 12:30 p.m., Mass, Chapel 3; Sun, 5 p.m., Mass, Chapel 2; Daily Mass, Mon.-Fri., noon, Chapel 2
- Contemporary:** Sun, 10:30 a.m., Kadena High School
- Gospel:** Sun, 10:30 a.m., Chapel 3
- Sunday School:** Sun, 9 a.m. Bldg. 856
- Inspirational:** Sun, 8:30 a.m., Chapel 2
- Protestant:** Sun, 10 a.m., Chapel 2
- Traditional:** Sun, 10:30 a.m., Chapel 2
- Wiccan/Pagan:** Sat, 2 p.m., Bldg. 856

CAMP LESTER | 643-7248

- Catholic:** Sun, 8 a.m., Lester Chapel
- Mon, 10 a.m., Thurs, 9 a.m., Liturgy of Word at Hospital Chapel
- Non-Denominational:** Sun, 9 a.m., Hospital Chapel; Sun, 10 a.m., Lester Chapel

MCAS FUTENMA | 636-3058

- Catholic:** Sun, noon
- Contemporary:** Fri, 7 p.m.; Sun, 9 a.m.

CAMP KINSER | 637-1148

- Catholic:** Sun, noon
- Protestant:** Sun, 9 a.m.

Japanese phrase of the week:

"Wakari masen" (pronounced wok-are-e mas-en)

- It means, "I don't know," or "I don't understand."



Aug. 30 - Sept. 2

Rifle Range

Sgt. Madison T. Polk,
 3rd Marine Division, 330
 Sgt. Joseph L. Weimer,
 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 330

Pistol Range

Gunnery Sgt. Larry J. Arnold,
 III Marine Expeditionary Force, 371

Fresh air, green grass, good game

Service members relieve stress, build camaraderie via golf

Cpl. Aaron D. Hostutler

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Military service members don't often work nine-to-five jobs. Whether it's a deployment, exercise or just another day at the office, it's not unheard of for Marines to arrive at work before sunrise and leave after sunset.

Hectic work schedules often leave service members with the need to let loose and relieve the stress built up while on the job. Some have found the best way to relieve their stress is to grab a set of clubs and head over to the nearest golf course and hit the links.

"I golf because it's a stress reliever," said Cpl. Tyler James, a military policeman with Marine Corps Base Camp Butler's Provost Marshals Office. "Golfing gives me time to reflect on the past week and relax with family and friends."

There are several places for military members to golf on Okinawa including the Taiyo Golf Club, Banyan Tree Golf Course, and the Chibana Golf Course.

"I really enjoy golfing on Okinawa because the prices are better and the scenery on the courses really accentuates the beauty of Okinawa," James said.

But patrolman aren't the only service members on the course.

Sgt. Katherine



The Taiyo Golf Course is one of many golf courses on Okinawa where service members can enjoy the scenery of Okinawa while playing the game of their choice. Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Community Services Marketing

Descoteaux, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Permanent Change of Station section of Installation Personnel Administrative Center, MCB Camp Butler, enjoys golfing with the Marines from her unit.

"We like to golf as an entire shop," Descoteaux said. "It builds camaraderie in the shop and helps us to work better together."

Golfing can also be a fun event for the whole family.

James enjoys taking his 11-year-old son on the course and

teaching him the fundamentals of the sport.

"He makes me really proud," James said. "I know he'll be really good when he gets to high school if he sticks with it."

Golfing has been a family tradition for James ever since his father competed in the Professional Golfers Association. For James, taking his son golfing is more than just playing a game, it's passing on a family tradition.

Whether it's relieving stress, building camaraderie

between Marines or passing down a family tradition, golfing can be a good way to pass the time on Okinawa.

For those interested in golfing, the Taiyo Golf Club is hosting a Club Championship individual stroke play event Oct. 9-11. Deadline for registration is Oct. 6. For more information call the club at 622-2004.

For information and tee times at the Banyan Tree Golf Course call 959-3900 and you can reach Chibana Golf Course at 959-4101.



Whether it's golfing all 18 holes or just hitting a few golf balls at the driving range, many service members island-wide turn to golf as a way to relax and relieve stress. Photo by Cpl. Aaron D. Hostutler